

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
EA-10 FRB-03 INR-10 IO-13 NEA-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11
OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGRE-00
OMB-01 SS-15 /110 W
-----037483 241644Z /44
R 241508Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5216

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OECD, ECON
SUBJECT: HEADS OF DELEGATION MEETING, JULY 21, 1978

REF: (A) C(78)128; (B) STATE 184276; (C) STATE 184442

1. SUMMARY: SECRETARY-GENERAL'S NOTE ON LONGER-TERM STRUCTURAL MACRO-ECONOMIC ISSUES IN OECD REMAINS "ON THE TABLE" FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION IN CONJUNCTION WITH FALL FORMAL DISCUSSION OF PROGRAM OF WORK AND BUDGET. PRELIMINARY HEADS OF DEL DISCUSSION REVEALED WIDESPREAD SUPPORT FOR MORE EXPLICIT TREATMENT OF STRUCTURAL ISSUES IN ECONOMIC POLICY CONTEXT BY ALL UNITS OF OECD, BUT EQUALLY WIDESPREAD SUPPORT FOR CONTINUATION OF PRESENT LEVEL OF ATTENTION TO CYCLICAL QUESTIONS. END SUMMARY

2. HEADS OF DEL PRAISED SECRETARY-GENERAL'S NOTE C(78)128, ESPECIALLY PART I, AS AN EXCELLENT LAYMAN'S PRESENTATION OF A DIFFICULT SUBJECT, WITH CANADIAN PERMREP GOING AS FAR AS TO SUGGEST PUBLISHING "SANITIZED" VERSION OF PART I IN OECD "OBSERVER." ALL
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SPEAKERS AGREED THAT LONGER-TERM ASPECTS OF ECONOMIC ISSUES AND PROBLEMS (AND APPROPRIATE POLICY MEASURES) SHOULD RECEIVE GREATER EXPLICIT ATTENTION IN OECD, BUT AT SAME TIME ALL (INCLUDING U.S.) EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUING WORK ON SHORT-TERM ANALYSIS AND DEMAND MANAGEMENT. SECRETARIAT (LEWIS OF PLANNING), IN INTRODUCING SECRETARY-GENERAL'S NOTE, STRESSED THAT ATTEN-

TION TO LONGER-TERM ASPECTS MUST NOT BE AT THE EXPENSE OF CYCLICAL ANALYSIS UNDERLYING DEMAND MANAGEMENT POLICY. WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS, DISCUSSION OF SPECIFIC PROGRAMS WAS RELEGATED TO FALL -- ALTHOUGH U.S. MADE POINTS IN PARA. 3, STATE 184276, GAINING SUPPORT FROM NEW ZEALAND ON AGRICULTURE. AUSTRIAN DEL (NOTING THE INTERRELATIONSHIP OF ISSUES IN LONGER-TERM CONTEXT) SUGGESTED THAT ONE CONCLUSION FROM THE DISCUSSION MIGHT BE NEED FOR REASSESSMENT AND REORGANIZATION OF PRESENT COMMITTEE STRUCTURE. HIS VIEW CLOSELY IN LINE WITH U.S. POSITION (PARA. 10, STATE 184447) EXPRESSED DURING INITIAL HEADS OF DEL DISCUSSION OF WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET (SEPTTEL).

3. TURKISH PERMREP COMPLAINED THAT SECRETARY-GENERAL HAD MET ONLY PART REQUIREMENTS RESULTING FROM PREVIOUS DISCUSSION IN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, BY ADDRESSING MAINLY GENERAL SUBSTANCE OF STRUCTURAL ISSUES, NEGLECTING PROBLEMS SPECIFIC TO LESS DEVELOPED OECD MEMBERS AND IGNORING PROCEDURAL IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED BOTH WITHIN SECRETARIAT AND IN HANDLING BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, COUNCIL AND HEADS OF DEL. SOME OTHER DELS FELT PRESENTATION IN PART II OF NOTE WAS WEAK ON HOW COORDINATION TOOK PLACE WITHIN SECRETARIAT, BUT DID NOT SEE NEED FOR PROCEDURAL PAPER ON HOW PERMREPS COULD UNDERTAKE MORE SUBSTANTIVE

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EA-10 FRB-03 INR-10 IO-13 NEA-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11

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DISCUSSIONS. MOST DELS FELT THAT SECRETARIAT'S NOTE WAS CLOSE TO THE MARK FOR PRESENT PURPOSES. (MISSION NOTE: DESPITE EXPRESSED DESIRE BY MANY PERMREPS FOR OPPORTUNITIES FOR INFORMAL INFORMATIONAL AND DISCUSSION SESSIONS AMONG HEADS OF DELS ON SUBSTANCE OF HORIZONTAL ISSUES, NUMEROUS SPEAKERS CITED "LACK OF INSTRUCTIONS" FROM CAPITALS AS BASIS FOR MAKING ONLY "PRELIMINARY COMMENT.")

4. A FEW DELS SUGGESTED SECRETARY-GENERAL DRAW UP SHORT PRIORITY LIST OF "MOST IMPORTANT" TOPICS FROM PARA. 15 OF C(78)128, WHICH COUNCIL COULD ALLOCATE TO APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES. SECRETARIAT (MARRIS) FELT THAT ESTABLISHING HIERARCHY OF ISSUES WAS NOT REALISTIC, SUGGESTING INSTEAD THAT SECRETARIAT COULD PROVIDE PAPER REVISING STRUCTURE

PARA. 15 AS ORGANIZATIONAL BASIS TO SHOW WHERE AND HOW EACH IS TREATED IN ORGANIZATION. HEADS OF DEL COULD THEN SEE WHETHER AMOUNT AND DIRECTION OF WORK WAS FELT APPROPRIATE, AND TAKE NECESSARY ACTION TO REDRESS IMBALANCES. SECRETARY-GENERAL INDICATED SECRETARIAT WOULD CONSIDER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DRAWING UP A PAPER ALONG THESE LINES. SEVERAL DELEGATES REFERRED TO PARA. 41 AND 42 OF SECRETARY-GENERAL'S NOTE WITH RESPECT TO POSITIVE ADJUSTMENT POLICIES AND URGED THAT SECRETARIAT INSURE CLOSE COORDINATION BETWEEN WORK ON POSITIVE ADJUSTMENT AND MORE GENERAL QUESTIONS OF LONGER-TERM ISSUES AS LAID OUT IN C(78)128.

5. MOST HEADS OF DEL FELT DESCRIPTION OF ROLE FOR EPC/ WP-2 IN C(78)128 WENT A "LITTLE TOO FAR," SINCE COORDINATING FUNCTION MUST REST WITH COUNCIL. NEVERTHELESS, ALL RECOGNIZED THAT WORK OF EPC AND WP-2 WOULD PUT THEM AT CENTER OF WEB OF LONGER-TERM ACTIVITIES AND URGED THAT TWO-WAY FLOW OF INFORMATION BE ENHANCED, SO WP-2 WOULD BENEFIT FROM WORK OF OTHER COMMITTEES AND OTHER COMMITTEES COULD DRAW ON FINDINGS OF WP-2.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING DELEGATIONS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PARIS23176
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780303-0549
Format: TEL
From: PARIS USOECD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780727/aaaaawuh.tel
Line Count: 165
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2731f96d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 184276, 78 STATE 184442
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1907706
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HEADS OF DELEGATION MEETING, JULY 21, 1978
TAGS: ECON, OECD
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2731f96d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014